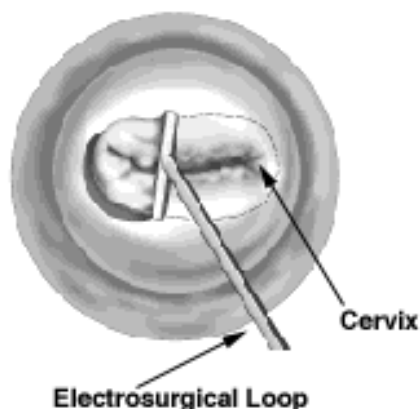


Utah Cancer Control Program

Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (L.E.E.P.)



WHAT IS LEEP?

Laser surgery is the use of a narrow beam of intense light to kill cancerous cells. This procedure can be performed in your health care provider's office with no or little discomfort. A laser beam is used to destroy the abnormal surface cells. The laser produces a beam of infrared light that is invisible to the eye and is focused by the lens of the colposcope to a minute spot size (0.1-2 millimeters).

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCEDURE TAKE?

The procedure takes 10 to 30 minutes for your health care provider to perform. You will be able to go home as soon as the procedure has been completed.

HOW IS LEEP PERFORMED?

LEEP begins much like a regular Pap test. You will remain awake throughout the procedure and may feel minor discomfort. The speculum is inserted into the vagina and opened so that the cervix can be seen. A solution is then applied onto the cervix to make the abnormal cells visible. Your health care provider then places a colposcope near the opening of the vagina. The colposcope, which remains outside of the vagina, provides a magnified view of the cervix. Once the cervix is numbed with local anesthesia, an electrically charged loop, made of thin wire, is inserted through the speculum and up to the cervix. As the loop is passed across the cervix, it cuts away a thin layer of surface tissue, removing the abnormal cells. This tissue will be later tested for cancer. At the end of the procedure

your health care provider will apply a medicated paste to the area to prevent bleeding.

EXPECTATIONS AFTER LEEP

Vaginal drainage or spotting is normal for 1 to 3 weeks following the procedure. A brownish-black vaginal discharge is also normal.

*Tampons or pads may be used for the discharge. Do not leave tampons in for more than 3 hours.

Your menstrual cycle will not be disrupted by this procedure.

*Avoid excessive activity for 48 hours after the procedure. If excessive bleeding occurs after you resume normal activities, call your physician.

*Abstain from sexual intercourse for 3 to 4 weeks.

*Showers and tub baths are allowed.

RELIEVING DISCOMFORTS

During your recovery, you may experience vaginal bleeding and mild cramping. Tampons or pads may be used for discharge. To relieve abdominal cramping, take a non-aspirin, over-the-counter pain reliever such as ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) or acetaminophen (Tylenol).

You will need a follow-up checkup 3 to 4 weeks after the procedure.

WHEN TO CONTACT YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER?

Contact your health care provider if you experience any of the following symptoms during your recovery:

1. Heavy bleeding (more than a normal menstrual flow)
2. Bleeding with clots
3. Vaginal discharge that has a foul odor
4. Fever over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
5. Severe abdominal pain.